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NEWSLETTER

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THEORIST, COLUMNIST, NOVELIST WILL KEYNOTE THIRD ANNUAL STATE CONFERENCE NOVEMBER 8 & 9

Is private property still the basis for democracy? When should our freedom of self-expression be limited? How do art and culture shape our ideas about what it means to be human? Noted political theorist C. B. Macpherson, *New York Times* syndicated columnist Anthony Lewis, and Pulitzer Prize-winning novelist N. Scott Momaday will lead discussions on these and other perennial questions at the Third Annual State Humanities Conference, November 8 and 9 at the College of Great Falls.

With the Bicentennial of the Declaration of Independence upon us, the Montana Committee for the Humanities, after public consultation, chose the theme "Private Rights and Public Choices" to reflect the enduring patterns and problems of American life. This conference, entitled "Private Rights and Public Choices: Images of Humanity in a Changing World," will explore this year's theme by asking participants to think about how traditional American rights and freedoms are faring in Montana today. Founded on the principle of the sanctity of certain private rights, yet committed to the importance of public and governmental activity, American politics in general, and Montana politics in particular, necessarily reflect the tension between the two. It is hoped that discussion of the tension between public and private spheres of life at the Great Falls conference will serve as the catalyst for the generation of public programs to be funded by the MCH in its new grant year.

The conference will open with an address by Professor Macpherson on Friday afternoon. Macpherson, who teaches Political Science at the University of Toronto, has questioned the relevance of traditional, acquisitive ideas about private property and suggested alternative ideas about property rights that he believes will lead to a more democratic society. His books, *The Political Theory of Possessive Individualism, The Real World of* Democracy, and *Democratic Theory: Essays in Retrieval*, are landmarks in contemporary political thought and have made him one of the foremost academic political theorists of our time. Professor Macpherson's talk will be followed by a discussion of the relevance of his ideas to Montana. Participating will be Tom Power, Assistant Professor of Economics at the University of Montana; Montana State University Economist and rancher P. J. Hill from Broadus; and other distinguished Montanans.

Mr. Lewis will speak after dinner Friday night. He is the well-known author of *Gideon's Trumpet*, a two-time Pulitzer Prize-winning journalist, and former Supreme Court reporter for the *New York Times*. His recent *Times* columns reflect his concern for the future of Constitutional government in general and his special concern for the future of Constitutional restrictions on governmental power in the areas of speech, information gathering and excessive secrecy. His talk will be on the general topic of the future of freedom for self-expression in America.

Lewis will also sit in on a panel discussion Saturday on the past, present, and future of freedom of expression in Montana. This discussion will include Anaconda attorney and former Constitutional Convention Delegate Wade Dahood, Rosemary Zion, Professor of Sociology at the College of Great Falls and others. It will focus on the history of control over the press in Montana, freedom of access to the media today, and the pros and cons of greater control over such things as pornography,

(Cont. on page 2)

LAND USE CONFERENCE

A landmark effort in public dialogue is currently underway as the Second Annual Land Use Conference swings into operation. Similar in some ways to President Ford's economic foothills and summit conferences, the organizers of the series have planned and set in motion nine regional conferences leading up to a State Land Use Conference in Great Falls, November 21-23.

A coalition of agricultural, environmental, business and political groups, gathered together by Representative Harrison Fagg of Billings, have cooperated in an effort to see if a consensus on land use policy can emerge from public debate with a humanistic emphasis. Included in the conference steering committee are representatives from groups who are often on opposite sides of the political fence: AFL-CIO and the Chamber of Commerce; The Montana Farm Bureau and the Montana Farmers Union; The Montana Stockgrowers Association and the Montana Wildlife Federation. In addition, the conference is endorsed by the Governor's Office, and several State agencies are involved along with state legislators, and humanists from several fields. Co-Chairmen of the State Conference are Steve Brown of the Governor's Office and Harrison Fagg. Phil Tawney of the Environmental Information Center is coordinator of local workshops. The overall director of the project is Dr. Francis Kerins, President of Carroll College.

(Cont. on page 2)

COMMITTEE NOTES

Margaret Kingsland has been named Director of the Montana Committee for the Humanities.

Howard Schwartz has been temporarily serving as State Conference Coordinator and Newsletter Editor.

State Conference (Cont.)

government files and different lifestyles in the future.

Dr. Momaday, a professor of literature at Stanford University, will address the theme of the interplay of art and culture in creating our ideals and values. He will speak during the Saturday morning session of the conference. In his books, *The Way to Rainy Mountain* and the Pulitzer Prize-winning novel *House Made of Dawn*, he has presented some of the folklore of his people, the Kiowa Indians of the Southwest, and explored the tensions between Native American and white societies. Complementing Professor Momaday's discussion of where our ideals of humanity come from, will be a third panel discussion on "Human Rights in Montana." Participants will include Kathe McGehee, Chief of the State Human Rights Bureau, and others. They will examine how well basic human needs and aspirations are being satisfied in Montana today and what role, if any, the government should have in furthering a conception of what it means to be human.

All of the guest speakers will be available throughout the conference for informal discussion. They are eager to meet and talk with Montanans about the subject of human rights. In addition, many of the media projects funded by the committee will be avilable for viewing, including Dick Maney's prize winning film, "Outside the Melting Pot."

All interested Montanans are invited to attend the conference free of charge on Friday, November 8, from 1-8 p.m., and Saturday, November 9, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., at the McLaughlin Center on the College of Great Falls campus. Meals will be served in the Student Union Building. For further information, and meal reservations, contact the MCH office in Missoula, or phone 243-6022.

RIGHT TO KNOW VS. RIGHT OF PRIVACY

Is the individual's right to privacy compatible with the public's right to know? This was one of the questions before the Montana Press Association at its annual meeting in Helena on August 17. Professor Joseph Ward of Carroll College, MCH member and one of four panelists, thought that ultimately they are not. "One man's right is another man's tyranny," he said. "Although everyone needs a certain amount of privacy for creativity, autonomy, and a feeling of zest for life, at some point the rights of the individual must be limited for the common good." Two of the other speakers at the MCH-funded panel discussion, State Representative Michael T. Greely of Great Falls, Montana, and Common Cause Co-Chairperson Carol Mitchell of Missoula, disagreed in some respects, while W. H. Hornby of the *Denver* Post was willing to go even further in asserting the public's right of access to government files.

Representative Greely, who is author of several bills on this subject, described the fear of many parents, some of whom phoned him in the middle of the night, that adoption records and other extremely personal material might be available for public inspection unless some provision for protecting the privacy of citizens is made. "Somebody has got to make the determination of when the right to privacy exceeds the right to know," he said. Given that some procedure must be adopted, Greely suggested that the power to decide each case be given to the public custodian of the records. He acknowledged the objection of other panelists and members of the audience that there is a danger of vesting such power in a civil servant, but he argued that government cannot function unless there is a presumption that public officials will do their best to uphold and follow the law.

Loopholes in current laws and misinterpretation of Montana's 1972 Constitution were Ms. Mitchell's chief concerns. She pointed out that government bodies have been able to circumvent the Open Meeting provisions of the Constitution by failing to give adequate notice of meetings. The meetings are open to the public, but no one knows where they are being held. Adequate legislation to enforce the spirit of the Constitutional right-to-know, she noted, is one of Common Cause's most important goals. Ms. Mitchell went on to say that although Common Cause had worked hard for the right-to-know provision of the Constitution, she thought that the right-to-privacy provision was equally important. "In a matter like this," she said, "there are no absolutes and there will, and must be, a continuing process of resolution."

If any of the panelists came close to asserting an absolute principle, it was Mr. Hornby. Echoing the words of Moderator George Remington of Helena, who said that "Timidity on the part of the press is the greatest danger we face," Mr. Hornby claimed that compared to government invasion of privacy, media invasion is minimal. More often than not, he added, the "right to privacy" is claimed in order to mask a coverup. The press has been made the scapegoat for invasions of privacy, while the government is always trying to increase secrecy, and the ire of the public has been misdirected, out of fear, against the press while the government is often unchallenged. Too often, he continued, in our drive toward privacy and our tendency to withdraw. we have forgotten that "the public happiness" was the basis on which our government was founded. The public good demands that we accept the risks of disclosure of personal information. Citing Thomas Emerson's *A System of Freedom of Expression*, Hornby noted that "after all, we are all social, talked about, subject to gossip, have a public image and there is nothing that can be done about that."

If any consensus emerged during the discussion, it was that ultimately most of these issues would be decided by the courts. Whether such a resolution, through the accumulation of case law and precedent, would be superior to solution through legislative enactment, was not resolved however.

Land Use (Cont.)

Regional conferences will bring together local farmers and ranchers, businessmen, environmentalists and humanists in an effort to identify regional conflicts over land use and point to possible solutions. Each regional conference is being coordinated by a local committee whose members are familiar with regional problems. The state conference will, of course, focus on state-wide land use problems, but will also come to grips with conflicts and tensions among and between the regions. The rights of individuals and localities and regions of Montana and the interests of the state as a whole (and indeed the U.S. as a whole) will be on the minds of conference participants.

Heading the State Conference discussion on who has a right to do what with the land will be Governor Tom Judge, Lt. Governor Bill Christiansen, Montana Power Co. President George O'Connor, Author A. B. Guthrie, Amy Roosevelt of Colorado, Arnold Rietze and Joseph Cavanaugh of Washington, D.C. and Representative Sam Steiger of Arizona.

For more information contact Barbara Garrett, 1424 Ninth St., Helena, Montana, 443-3757.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT SLIDE SHOW BIG HIT

A slide show produced by Mark Meloy and Lauren McKinsey for the recently concluded series of Local Government Review Forums has been enthusiastically received everywhere it has been shown. Using the theme, "Local Government Review: Will Anyone Come to the Show?" the slide show uses the metaphor of a theater performance to inform viewers of the history and procedures of the ongoing Constitutionally-mandated Local Government Review. The process is divided up into six acts: the Constitutional Convention, the Legislature, the State Commission on Local Government, Election and Activity of Local Review Commissions, Citizen Participation, and the final referendum on proposed reforms. Emphasizing the importance of citizen involvement in the process, the show challenges viewers to take part in this unique opportunity to consider revising Montana's local governments, and options such as the assumption of self-government powers by localities.

Mr. Meloy, a UM graduate student in political science, did all the photography and thematic arrangements. The narration is by Dr. McKinsey, a UM political scientist, who also wrote the script with Mr. Meloy and the staff of the UM Bureau of Government Research. The production will be videotaped for TV-airing on the MTN network, and then will be available to interested groups. For further information contact either Meloy or McKinsey at the Political Science Department, U of M.

ACADEMICS AND SMALL TOWNS

(The following is from Project Director Skip Schloss's final report.)

On July 14, 15, and 16, 1974, the Brokedown Palace Project presented a workshop entitled "Academics, The Small Town and Political Reality." Held at Westminster Spires Church Camp south of Red Lodge, the workshop was an attempt to create a mutually productive dialogue between academically-oriented humanists and small-town residents. The subject matter was political impotence, and included issue-related discussions of the economic, social, and cultural needs of the Montana small town. The city of Red Lodge (population 1,844) was used as a "model" in these discussions, owing to its proximity to the workshop site and the developmental program currently underway in that community.

Academic humanists Lou Hayes (Department of Political Science, University of Montana), Aaron Small (Department of English, Eastern Montana College), Ilmar Reinvald (School of Architecture, Montana State University), Wilbur Wood (poet, Roundup), Hidde Van Duym (area Agency on Aging, Roundup), Brooks Anderson (Special Services Department, E. M. C.), and keynote speaker John K. Harris (John K. Harris Associates, Washington, D.C.) were in attendance. Following opening remarks concerning the workshop's background and purpose by Brokedown Palace Project staff, a group dinner was served. This set the stage for Mr. Harris' address entitled "Will There Be Any *Real* Human Beings Out There?" on Sunday evening. Harris' talk and the discussion that followed stressed the availability of real alternatives for small towns—a theme which set the pace for the entire workshop.

Following breakfast on Monday morning, the workshop featured a series of presentations by academic humanists. In some cases these talks were direct responses to Mr. Harris' basic "alternatives" theme. In other cases the humanists chose to address various elemental facets of small town problems. Wilbur Wood, for example, delivered a prepared series of remarks concerning the shortages small towns face in procuring reasonably priced and delivered energy. It was his feeling that an economically viable alternative for small towns and/or rural regions was a concerted and well-planned program of waste resources recycling with commensurate energy production, possibly from methane gas naturally yielded from animal and human excrement. Dr. Ilmar Reinvald felt that a rational and humanistic approach to physical planning was a vital element in small town dignity, especially the restoration of aging, and possibly historic, structures. He made connections between community pride and presentable physical environments. To support Reinvald's thesis, students from the School of Architecture at M.S.U. displayed the products of their summer's labor . . . an extensive design essay addressing restoration and revitalization of small town buildings, and hence the total physical environment.

Mr. Jim Orr, a geologist and former small town newspaper editor, challenged the humanist's relevance to the real problems faced by small town residents on a daily basis. "I question whether it wouldn't have been better to conduct a workshop strictly for small town folks," he said. "I frankly don't think you humanists have provided us with one iota of insight on how to deal with our problems."

Monday afternoon's session served quite well as an "energizer" for the evening's featured Red Lodge Town of Tomorrow "Steering Committee" meeting. By far the best attended (over 120 persons) and the most topic-related, this session was designed to solicit LOCAL inputs on the workshop topic, with humanists acting as resource people. Shortly after opening remarks by Project personnel and Steering Committee members, the group was divided into seven sub-groups, each of which dealt with one of the following issues relating to small town survival:

1. Non-exploitive economic development
2. Services and facilities for the elderly
3. Housing programs
4. History, culture, and education
5. Development of community optimism
6. Public works (physical) planning
7. Cultural and Educational development as economic element

As is often the case in gatherings of this sort, much of the benefit derived from attending humanists occurred after the sessions, during the social periods and general conversations. It is in this arena. . . . small groups formed by chance or the intentional groups that gathered to discuss some aspect of the topic not formally addressed. . . . that the academic humanists proved their greatest worth. New ideas were generated, associations were formed, and topics and philosophies of future workshops were introduced and debated. In short, the humanists' *interactional skills* became their greatest asset.

One of the original workshop tasks was to challenge the relevance of academic humanists. Those humanists have answered that challenge by expressing their wish to be a part of a long-range, task-oriented program. Brokedown Palace Project is encouraged by their energy. Small towns need their knowledge, insights, and direction.

NEW GRANT AWARDS

"Rural Montana Local Government Review," sponsored by the Institute of the Rockies. A series of public discussions in sixteen rural Montana counties on the issues involved in, and the implications of, local government review in rural Montana. A companion to the urban citizen forums funded last year, this series seeks to involve citizens in the review process. Begins the winter of 1975.

"Human Rights and Individual Dignity," sponsored by the State Equal Employment Opportunity Bureau. A three-day conference in Helena, November 18-20, consisting of lectures, discussion groups, and panel discussions. Conference themes include: concepts of social and economic justice, the legal aspects of discrimination, rights of self-determination of minorities and women, and the role of the government in ensuring equal opportunity.

"Montana's Place in an Interdependent World," sponsored by the AAUW, Missoula Branch, and the Kellogg Extension Education Project (KEEP), Cooperative Extension Service, MSU. A State Conference in Missoula followed by an outreach program around the state to educate citizens on international issues facing Federal and State officials begins in February, 1975.

"Us and Them: Mental Health Care in Montana Today," sponsored by the Montana Association of Churches in cooperation with the League of Women Voters and other groups. A three-part project aimed at educating Montanans about the current status of mental health care, and possible alternatives.

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